

Aline Dassonville, industrious and good  
She behaves as all good Seniors should:  
She laughs, jokes, and studies well  
Does she have a fellow? You can never tell.

3

June Moore Hinkle, so noisy and yet,  
She knows a thing or two you bet;  
She talks and laughs and has great fun  
On deportment she never gets over seventy-one.

4

Lester Ballard, is tall, I say  
And he will be a great teacher some day:  
Get out of the way, clear the track,  
Don't get excited, Lester's coming back.

5

Lucille Smith, how hard she does work  
When it comes to English she does not shirk;  
Watch her smile, bless her life  
Wouldn't she make \_\_\_\_\_ a nifty wife?

6

Look at Hunter, he's a dandy looking lad,  
But once at ball playing his ankle went bad;  
He throws his back and puts his foot down  
And over for Margarets he is bound.

7

Edwin Coffman came into school,  
At first he never broke a rule;  
But now he laughs, giggles and grins,  
Talks to the girls, and sticks the boys with pins.

8

Behold! there is Carl sly and slick,  
He gets by with his mischief and tricks;  
The way he studies it is a fright  
But never-the-less he sees his girl every nite.

9

Just a word for Dorothy, the dear little girl,  
She seems to be the happiest one in all the world;  
Dorothy thinks teaching would be great fun  
But take heed-her life as a teacher she has not yet begun

10

Here comes Stella so solemn and slow,  
Who is never in a hurry as you all must know!  
Off times she is serious and sometimes funny  
She wants to work where she can make lots of money.

11

Margie Pyles, I must mention her name,  
For if theres anything done she's to blame.  
Down in Lewisburg, I am told, she has a fellow as good as gold.

12

Then here comes Laura the last of the girls  
Writing poetry seems to make her brain whirl,  
Some times she studies, sometimes she don't  
For if she doesn't like to do a thing, why then she won't.

SENIOR CLASS POEM

Written & Read by  
Aunt Margaret Kelsey  
Class night 1928



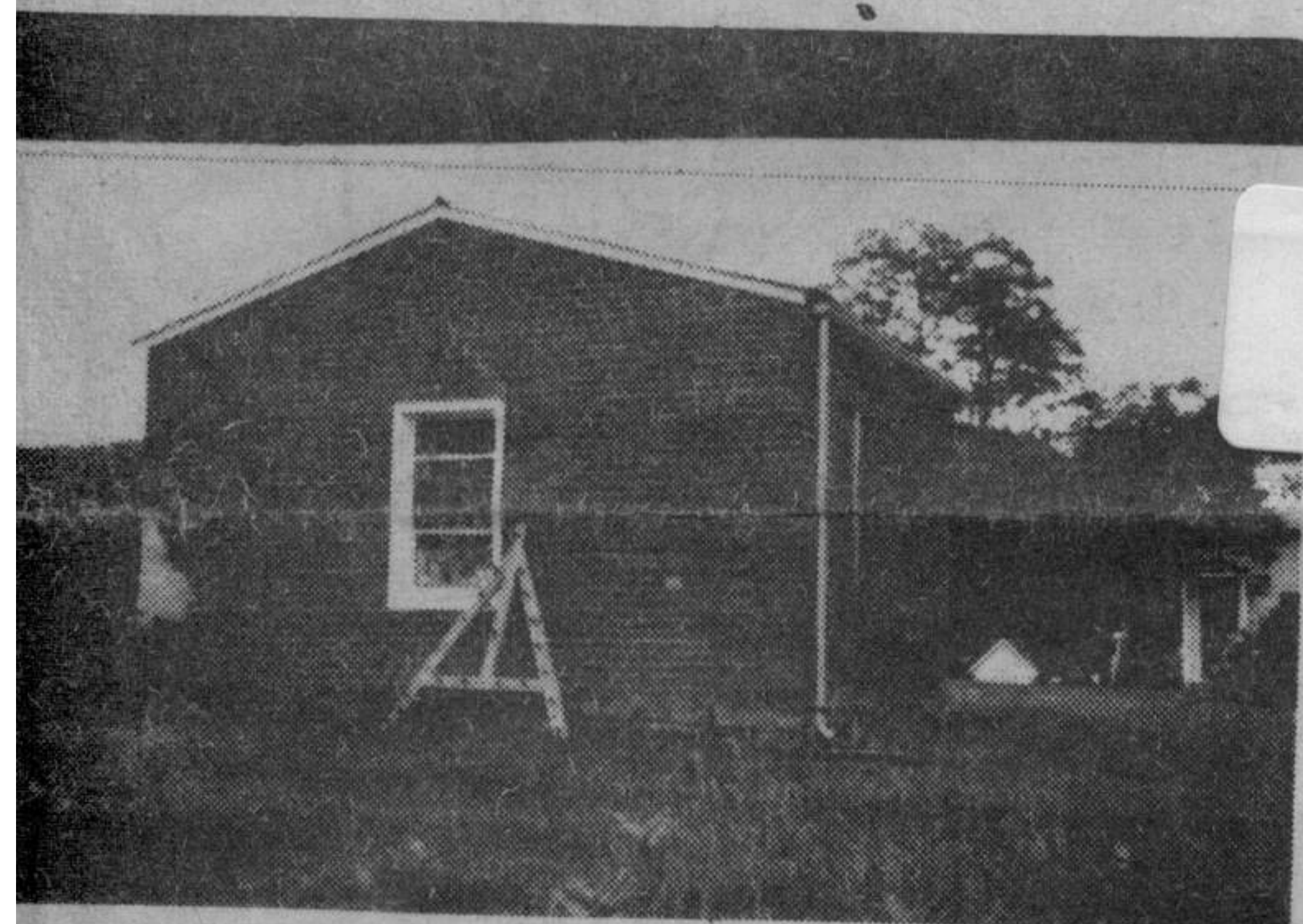
# **150TH ANNIVERSARY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY**

We, the members of this 1971 County Court Pocahontas County, do recognize that the 1971 is the 150th anniversary of the formation of Pocahontas County and we hereby proclaim this year to be celebrated as the Sesquicentennial year of Pocahontas County. In view of the fact that PIONEER DAYS is historically celebrated and will this year feature the village of Huntersville, which was the first County seat and site of the meeting of the first County Court, we hereby take notice of this celebration July 8-11, 1971, and urge the cooperation of all residents of the County in making this celebration a success.

J. Burns, Sr., President of the Court  
J. Widney and Richard I. McNeel, Members  
I. McNeel, Clerk



Visit this jail at Huntersville with the all studded door, unusual floor, etc., during Huntersville Tours Friday and Sunday afternoons of Pioneer Days.



The clerk's office was built soon after the county was formed and stood at the rear of the original court house. Both buildings both are owned by Elmer Nelson.



An Act forming a new county out of parts of the counties of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph.

[Passed December 21, 1821.]

1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That all that part of the counties of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph, contained within the following bounds, to wit: beginning at the line of Greenbrier county on the top of the Alleghany mountain; thence with the said line to the head of Spice Run; thence with said line to the end of the Droop mountain; thence with said line to Fryer's Knob; thence with said line to where it intersects the line of Bath and Randolph; thence with the line dividing Randolph and Greenbrier counties to the mountain opposite the junction of the Bonnock Shoal Run with William's river; thence a straight line to the mouth of the Dry Fork of Elk river; thence a straight line to the top of the mountain between the head of the Valley river and the point last aforesaid, where the road leading from Clover Lick to Randolph court-house crosses said mountain; thence a straight line to where the line of Pendleton county intersects the line of Bath and Randolph counties on the top of the mountain between Cheat and Greenbrier rivers; thence with the top of the said mountain to where the road leading from Claven's to Randolph court-house crosses it; thence a straight line to the top of the Alleghany mountain opposite the head of the east fork of Greenbrier river; thence with the top of said mountain to the Pendleton line, and thence with the top of said mountain to the beginning, shall form one distinct and new county, and be called and known by the name of Pocahontas county.

2. A court for the said county of Pocahontas shall be held by the justices thereof on the first Tuesday in every month after the same takes place, in like manner as is provided by law for other counties, and shall be by their commissions directed.

3. And, in order the more impartially and correctly to ascertain the most proper place for holding courts, and erecting the public buildings for the said county of Pocahontas; Abraham McNeal, John Baxter, James Tallman, John Jordan, Jacob Warwick and John Bradshaw, gentlemen, shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, a majority of whom may act, for the purpose aforesaid, whose duty it shall be, after having performed the services hereby required, to make report thereof to the court of the said county of Pocahontas, whereupon they shall proceed to erect the necessary public buildings, at the place so fixed on by the said commissioners, or a majority of them, which, when completed, shall be the permanent place for holding courts of the said county. The said commissioners shall be allowed for the sum of three dollars per day, as a compensation for the duties hereby imposed on them, to be paid out of the levy to be collected in the said county.

4. The justices to be named in the commission of the peace for the said county of Pocahontas, shall meet at the house of John Bradshaw in the said county, upon the first court day after the said county takes place, and having administered the oaths of office to, and taken bonds of the sheriff according to law, proceed to appoint and qualify a clerk; and, until the necessary public buildings are completed, at the place pointed out by the commissioners, or a majority of them, to appoint such place within the county, for holding courts, as they may think proper; provided, always, That the appointment of a clerk, and a temporary place for holding courts, shall not be made, unless a majority of the justices of the said county be present.

5. It shall be lawful for the sheriffs of the counties of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph, to collect and make distress for any public dues, or officers' fees, which shall remain unpaid by the inhabitants of the county of Pocahontas at the time it takes place, and shall be accountable for the same in like manner as if this act had never been made.

6. The governor, with the advice of council, shall appoint a person to be first sheriff of the county of Pocahontas, who shall continue in office during the term, and upon the same conditions, as are by law appointed for other sheriffs.

7. The courts of the counties of Bath, Pendleton .....  
An Act of December 28, 1824, added 60 square miles from Greenbrier County.

The Huntersville Post office was established August 6, 1822. The first postmaster was Thomas Bradshaw.

To HIS WIFE  
"Kinloch," Virginia

Huntersville, Virginia  
August 4, 1861

52



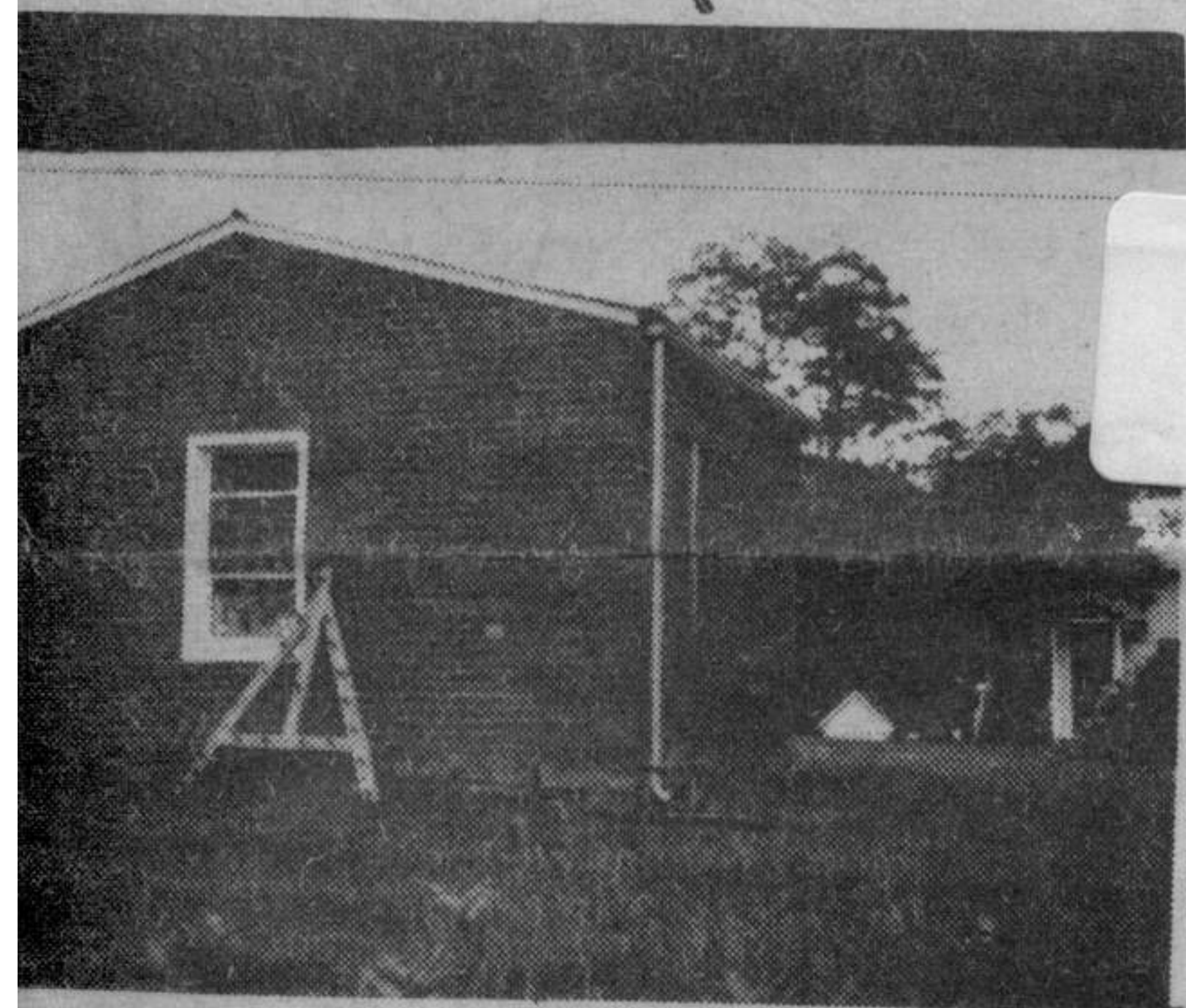
# 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

The members of this 1971 County Court of Pocahontas County, do recognize that the year 1821 is the 150th anniversary of the formation of Pocahontas County and we hereby propose that the year 1971 be celebrated as the Sesqui-centennial year of Pocahontas County. In view of the fact that PIONEER DAYS is historically significant and will this year feature the village of Huntersville, which was the first County seat, we hereby take notice of this celebration on August 11, 1971, and urge the cooperation of the citizens of the County in making this a success.

W. H. McNeel, Sr., President of the Court  
 W. H. McNeel, Jr. and Richard I. McNeel, Members  
 W. H. McNeel, Clerk



The jail at Huntersville with the decorated door, unusual floor, etc., is the subject of the tour. The tour is held on Friday and Sunday of Pioneer Days.



The post office was built soon after the county was formed and stood at the rear of the original court house. Both are owned by Elmer Nelson.



AN ACT FORMING A NEW COUNTY OUT OF PARTS OF THE COUNTIES OF BATH, PENDLETON AND RANDOLPH.

[Passed December 21, 1821.]

1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That all that part of the counties of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph, contained within the following bounds, to wit: beginning at the line of Greenbrier county on the top of the Alleghany mountain; thence with the said line to the head of Spice Run; thence with said line to the end of the Droop mountain; thence with said line to Fryer's Knob; thence with said line to where it intersects the line of Bath and Randolph; thence with the line dividing Randolph and Greenbrier counties to the mountain opposite the junction of the Bonnock Shoal Run with William's river; thence a straight line to the mouth of the Dry Fork of Elk river; thence a straight line to the top of the mountain between the head of the Valley river and the point last aforesaid, where the road leading from Clover Lick to Randolph court-house crosses said mountain; thence a straight line to where the line of Pendleton county intersects the line of Bath and Randolph counties on the top of the mountain between Cheat and Greenbrier rivers; thence with the top of the said mountain to where the road leading from Claven's to Randolph court-house crosses it; thence a straight line to the top of the Alleghany mountain opposite the head of the east fork of Greenbrier river; thence with the top of said mountain to the Pendleton line, and thence with the top of said mountain to the beginning, shall form one distinct and new county, and be called and known by the name of Pocahontas county.

2. A court for the said county of Pocahontas shall be held by the justices thereof on the first Tuesday in every month after the same takes place, in like manner as is provided by law for other counties, and shall be by their commissions directed.

3. And, in order the more impartially and correctly to ascertain the most proper place for holding courts, and erecting the public buildings for the said county of Pocahontas; Abraham McNeal, John Baxter, James Tallman, John Jordan, Jacob Warwick and John Bradshaw, gentlemen, shall be, and they are hereby appointed commissioners, a majority of whom may act, for the purpose aforesaid, whose duty it shall be, after having performed the services hereby required, to make report thereof to the court of the said county of Pocahontas, whereupon they shall proceed to erect the necessary public buildings, at the place so fixed on by the said commissioners, or a majority of them, which, when completed, shall be the permanent place for holding courts of the said county. The said commissioners shall be allowed for the sum of three dollars per day, as a compensation for the duties hereby imposed on them, to be paid out of the levy to be collected in the said county.

4. The justices to be named in the commission of the peace for the said county of Pocahontas, shall meet at the house of John Bradshaw in the said county, upon the first court day after the said county takes place, and having administered the oaths of office to, and taken bonds of the sheriff according to law, proceed to appoint and qualify a clerk; and, until the necessary public buildings are completed, at the place pointed out by the commissioners, or a majority of them, to appoint such place within the county, for holding courts, as they may think proper; provided, always, That the appointment of a clerk, and a temporary place for holding courts, shall not be made, unless a majority of the justices of the said county be present.

5. It shall be lawful for the sheriffs of the counties of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph, to collect and make distress for any public dues, or officers' fees, which shall remain unpaid by the inhabitants of the county of Pocahontas at the time it takes place, and shall be accountable for the same in like manner as if this act had never been made.

6. The governor, with the advice of council, shall appoint a person to be first sheriff of the county of Pocahontas, who shall continue in office during the term, and upon the same conditions, as are by law appointed for other sheriffs.

7. The courts of the counties of Bath, Pendleton . . . . . An Act of December 28, 1824, added 60 square miles from Greenbrier County.

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To HIS WIFE  
 "Kinloch," Virginia

Huntersville, Virginia  
 August 4, 1861

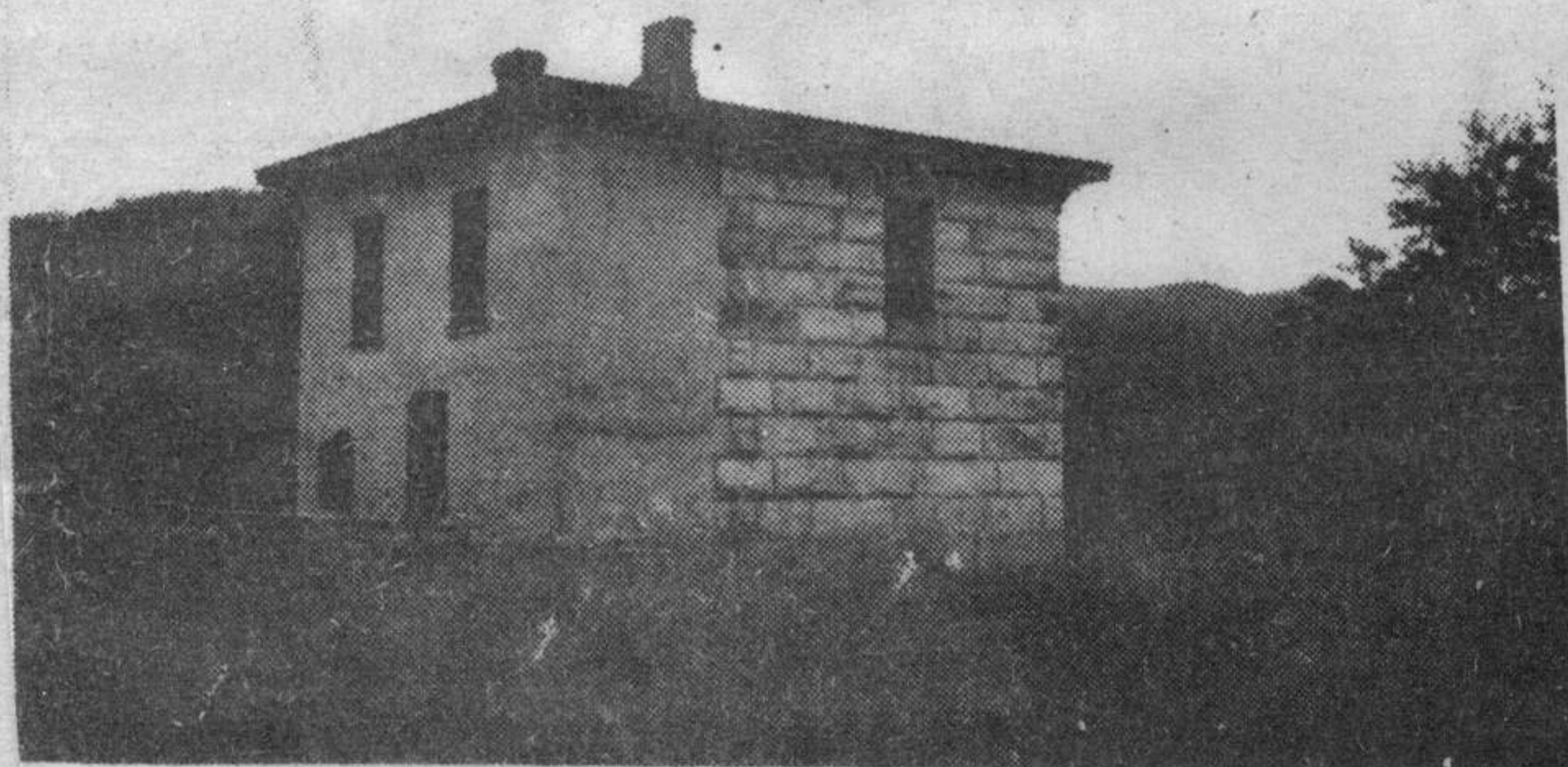
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# RE: 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Harry J. Widney and Richard I. McNeel, Members  
Alfred McNeel, Clerk



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To HIS WIFE  
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Huntersville, Virginia  
August 1, 1861



## Two Young Hunters Lightning Victims

Tree Under Which They Took Refuge  
Struck on Friday Last

Okey Lee Coleman and Okey Peyton, two boys each 14 years old, who lived at Millpoint, Pocahontas county, fell victims to a lightning bolt when a tree was struck under which they had taken refuge from the rain while hunting on Little mountain near Hillsboro. They were missing from Friday evening, when they started out hunting, until Monday, Coleman being found in a dying condition about three-fourths of a mile from where the tree stood that was riven by the lightning. Peyton's body was found under the tree, and it is believed that he was instantly killed. Coleman's was found by searchers about 11 a. m. on Monday. He was delirious. When asked where Peyton was he said his hunting companion had gone after a doctor. Peyton's body was found about 4 p. m. the same day.

The boys did not show up at their homes on Friday night, but it was thought they were with friends. Neither was much alarm felt when they failed to show up next day. On Sunday some search was made for them, but it was not until Monday that search in earnest was instituted. The tree under which they had taken refuge from the rain during the storm that came up was badly shattered.

Peyton was an orphan and lived with a brother. Coleman was a son of John Coleman. The victims were nephew and uncle. Both boys graduated from the eighth grade this spring.

## REV. J. D. POPE DEAD.

The Rev. Jesse Dare Pope of Renick, widely known superannuated minister of the Baltimore conference, M. E. church, South, died on Monday, May 15, 1939, in the hospital at Ronceverte following a long illness. He was 66 years old. Due to ill health Mr. Pope retired from the active ministry about eight years ago, after serving his church 35 years. Since retirement he had lived at Renick with Mrs. Pope's aunt, Mrs. J. S. Wickline. In 1902 Mr. Pope married Miss Mabel Whiting, a daughter of the late Geo. W. Whiting and Mrs. Whiting. His first ministerial charge was 42 years ago at Renick as a supply pastor. Besides the widow, three sons and a daughter survive. They are Ralph Pope of Ronceverte, Murray Pope of Bluefield, Va., Wilson Pope of White Sulphur, and a daughter, Mrs. John S. McWhorter of Baltimore. Funeral services were held at the Renick Methodist church on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, conducted by Rev. C. W. Fink, presiding elder of Lewisburg district, assisted by Rev. James Murray of Frankford and Rev. Otis C. Brown of Renick. Masonic rites were held at the grave.

## CARRIED A KNIFE

In Justice Arbuckle's court on Monday John Marshall Gilliam of Frankford was fined \$50 and given six months in jail for carrying on his person a deadly weapon, in this instance a large knife. He appealed to the circuit court.

Lawson Merrill Hill, son of George P. and Sophia S. Hill, was born near Jacob, March 28, 1939, and died at Tuscon, Arizona, May 6, 1939. When he was nine years of age his family located at Hillsboro. He graduated from the Hillsboro High School in the class of 1928. He received his high school diploma on Friday and on the following Monday he participated in the Fairmont Business College where he completed a business course in seventy-two days.

After spending some time in Texas and several months with his uncle, Dr. Simon Hill, in North Dakota, he entered the West Virginia University in 1931. He received his bachelor's degree in 1935; his master's in 1937. Since then he has been at work on his doctor's degree. He spent part of the year, 1937, in Thompson Institute, New York. For the past three years he was a member of the West Virginia University faculty. He taught in the department of plant pathology of the College of Agriculture. While he studied in that institution he was one of its most popular students. He served as "The Mountaineer," he was a member of the Mountain Club and Alpha Zeta, at the University.

During the pastorate of Rev. W. C. Early he was converted and united with the Hillsboro Methodist Church September 17, 1922. He was faithful in church attendance and active in Epworth League work. His loyalty and love of people won him a host of friends.

In his passing he leaves to mourn his loss his father and mother; two brothers, Clinton, of Hillsboro, and Charlie, of Morgantown; one sister, Ruth; and a host of devoted friends. The funeral service was conducted at the Hillsboro Methodist Church by his pastor, Rev. L. S. Shires, assisted by Rev. J. E. Knight, of the Presbyterian church, after which his body was laid to rest in the Oak Grove Cemetery at Hillsboro. The pall bearers were his associates and friends from W. V. U. His death closes the record of a courageous, ambitious and remarkably promising young life. Our hearts go out in sympathy to his bereft loved ones.

James Pugh of Covington is visiting his grandmother, Mrs. Rose Hinkle, at Frankford. Miss Clara Fisher of the state compensation office at Charleston spent the week-end with her mother, Mrs. John W. Fisher, at Frankford.



The Old and the New  
Tourists come for miles by the car load and by the bus load, to ride the train to the top of the mountain, to see the beauty of nature and to see the old Cass Mill and the Company store. In my mind I go back several years and see a different Cass from what it is today. Cass was a town of hard working men, women and children, striving to keep the old mill running. I can hear the mill whistle blowing loud and clear every working day at 5:30 A. M., telling the men it was time to arise and face a new day. Cass seemed to come alive in one split second when that old whistle started blowing. Lights came on in every house for the women had to prepare a hot breakfast and pack lunches. Men had to put on their work clothes, eat a hearty breakfast and be on their way to the mill, shop, trains, or any job they happen to have. If you were one of the early risers you could see men come out their back doors and walk out the alley or out their front doors and walk up the board walks, some would fall in step with their neighbors and talk as they walked, and some would walk alone, just thinking about the day ahead or days gone by. At 7:00 o'clock the whistle blew again, telling them it was time to start up the wheels of progress. Later the school bell would ring just about as loud and long as the mill whistle. Children came from all directions, out the streets, across the old swinging bridge, up from Slab Town and Deer Creek, all would be carrying school books and some would be carrying a lunch pail or paper bag. A small group would be on their way to school because their parents made them go, but most of them went because they liked getting an education. Soon another bell rang telling the children it was time to take their seats and get classes started. Most of the classes started their day with the Lord's Prayer or a Bible story. The smaller classes would then have a "classmate health inspection." Usually they found me with dirty elbows for that I've soap didn't seem to get my elbows clean. Some would have dirty hands. Once in awhile someone had forgotten to comb his hair. About twice a year there would be a few sent home with lice. It was no disgrace to get lice, but it was awful uncomfortable to keep them. After inspection everyone settled down to studying reading, writing, arithmetic, and other subjects necessary for a good education. At noon the school

get the dinner on  
those close enough to go home, the others to get out their lunch boxes and eat and relax. Some children used the noon hour to go to the post office or to the store to do a little shopping for their moms or a neighbor. The men would hurry to the store to buy a bag of Five Brothers tobacco, a plug of Browns tobacco, a plug of Brown's Mule chewing tobacco, a new pair of gloves, or to sit on the store steps, leaning up against the heating units in the store (depending on the weather) to just talk and relax. Back to school and work for the afternoon. Four o'clock brings the sound of the school bell and mill whistle again. Children and fathers hurry home for a hot meal and to do the chores necessary to start in the routine of the next day. Mondays doctor was a medical doctor, dentist and a counselor, all in one big jolly man. He was us young people. It was a sad day in Cass when he died. We must not forget our Town Cop. He could be seen or found somewhere in Cass 24 hours a day. He made his regular rounds, sometimes taking a fellow home who had too much to drink and locking up some who refused to stay home after he had taken them home, checking up on the young people, making sure they had a good time, yet keeping out of trouble. On real dark nights or cold nights he would walk home with some of the children or young people if they lived out of town limits and had no street lights. He kept a close watch on the one restaurant we had, where young people could go to dance, drink cokes, or just enjoy the company of other young people, and of course he had to keep an eye on the beer joints to keep the men and some women from drinking more than they could handle, and separate the fighters. He was a busy man.

If you walked through the streets or back alleys when school wasn't open, you could see children, black and white, playing together, shooting marbles, playing pen knife, jumping rope, sleigh riding or ice skating, depending on the weather or season. The black men and white men worked together at the mill, swapped jokes, shared their chewing tobacco and called each other by their first names.

The Greenbrier River was a sight to see, both in winter and summer. In winter the ice would freeze from bank to bank. It was then time for the children to ride the log trains in for a weekend with their families. At night the church bell would

practicing for a Christmas  
meeting. On Sunday mornings the bells from all three churches would ring for Sunday School and preaching services. People could be seen going up the street or down the street, going to the church of their choice. The town doctor would start out early to make house calls, to ease a small child's pains, or on a rush call to bring a new baby into the world. He would go back to his office to find it full of patients, some were real sick and some only needed an aspirin and a pep talk. Some needed a broken bone mended, some needed a tooth pulled. Our doctor was a medical doctor, dentist and a counselor, all in one big jolly man. He was us young people. It was a sad day in Cass when he died. We must not forget our Town Cop. He could be seen or found somewhere in Cass 24 hours a day. He made his regular rounds, sometimes taking a fellow home who had too much to drink and locking up some who refused to stay home after he had taken them home, checking up on the young people, making sure they had a good time, yet keeping out of trouble. On real dark nights or cold nights he would walk home with some of the children or young people if they lived out of town limits and had no street lights. He kept a close watch on the one restaurant we had, where young people could go to dance, drink cokes, or just enjoy the company of other young people, and of course he had to keep an eye on the beer joints to keep the men and some women from drinking more than they could handle, and separate the fighters. He was a busy man.

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# Cass

## The Old and the New

Tourists come for miles by

the car load and by the bus

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pany store. In my mind I go

back several years and see a

different Cass from what it is

today. Cass was a town of

hard working men, women and

children, striving to keep the

old mill running. I can hear

the mill whistle blowing loud

and clear every working day

at 5:30 A. M., telling the men

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es. Men had to put on their

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breakfast and be on their way

to the mill, shop, trains, or any

job they happen to have. If

you were one of the early ris-

ers you could see men come

out their back doors and walk

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school and were interested in

getting an education. Soon an-

other bell rang telling the chil-

dren it was time to take their

seats and get classes started.

Most of the classes started

their day with the Lord's Pray-

er or a Bible story. The small-

er classes would then have a

classmate health inspection.

Usually they found me with

dirty elbows for that lye soap

didn't seem to get my elbows

clean. Some would have dirty

hands. Once in awhile some-

one had forgotten to comb his

hair. About twice a year there

would be a few sent home with

lice. It was no disgrace to get

lice, but it was awful uncom-

fortable to keep them. After

inspection everyone settled

bell rings, the mill bell whistle

blows, telling the mothers to

get the dinner on the table for

those close enough to go home,

the others to get out their lunch

boxes and eat and relax. Some

children used the noon hour to

go to the post office or to the

store to do a little shopping for

their moms or a neighbor. The

men would hurry to the store

to buy a bag of Five Brothers

tobacco, a plug of Browns

Mule chewing tobacco, a new

pair of gloves, or to sit on the

store steps, leaning up against

the heating units in the store

(depending on the weather) to

just talk and relax. Back to

school and work for the after-

noon. Four o'clock brings the

sound of the school bell and

mill whistle again. Children

and fathers hurry home for a

hot meal and to do the chores

necessary to start in the rou-

time of the next day. Mondays

one could see line after line of

clean clothes hanging out to

dry. Tuesday was ironing day.

Mothers were busy too; they

had house cleaning, cooking,

mending and all the little things

a mother has to do to keep a

family happy. The yards were

kept mowed, sidewalks swept

clean in summer months. In

winter months the snow was

shoveled off of the porches and

sidewalks. The maintenance

crew could be seen painting

houses or mending fences and

sidewalks. Some of us, wheth-

er we lived in town houses or

privately owned homes, almos-

know how many boards wet

in each sidewalk, how man-

trees, and what kind were in

each yard, who had dogs and

who had cats. We could hear

the passenger train coming up

the track, knowing that it

would stop at the old Cass De-

pot, bringing some new people

and some we already knew.

Time for a mad rush for the

post office to get the County

paper which always came on

Thursday, or to see who got

the biggest package from Sears

Roebuck or Montgomery Ward,

some to get a new mail order

catalog. The train went on up

to Durbin and back down

again in the afternoon with

more mail and passengers. Soon

a freight train could be heard

coming in to bring supplies

and to take out lumber. In

your small mind you wonder-

ed how the freight and passen-

ger train could be on the track

and not run into each other.

Somewhere in and around all

this the sound of the log train

could be heard bringing in logs

off of the mountain to be saw-

ed and placed at the mill. Fri-

day and Saturday the men

who cut down the trees in the

mountain were in need of a

mountain were in need of a

ring at one of the three church-

es, telling people there was a

revival going on, choir practice,

practicing for a Christmas or

Easter program or a prayer

meeting. On Sunday mornings

the bells from all three church-

es would ring for Sunday

School and preaching services.

People could be seen going up

the street or down the street,

going to the church of their

choice. The town doctor would

start out early to make house

calls, to ease a small child's

pains, an elderly person's

aches, or on a rush call to

bring a new baby into the

world. He would go back to

his office to find it full of pa-

tients, some were real sick and

some only needed an aspirin

and a pep talk. Some needed

a broken bone mended, some

needed a tooth pulled. Our

doctor was a medical doctor,

dentist and a counselor, all in

one big jolly man. He was

us young people. It was a sad

day in Cass when he died.

We must not forget our Town

Cop. He could be seen or found

somewhere in Cass 24 hours a

day. He made his regular

rounds, sometimes taking a

few home who had too much

to drink and locking up some

who refused to stay home after

he had taken them home,

checking up on the young peo-

ple, making sure they had a

good time, yet keeping out of

trouble. On real dark nights

or cold nights he would walk

home with some of the chil-

dren or young people if they

lived out of town limits and

had no street lights. He kept a

close watch on the one restaur-

ant we had, where young peo-

ple could go to dance, drink

cokes, or just enjoy the com-

pany of other young people,

and of course he had to keep

an eye on the beer joints to

keep the men and some wom-

en from drinking more than

they could handle, and separate

the fighters. He was a busy

man.

If you walked through the

streets or back alleys when

school wasn't open, you could

see children, black and white,

playing together, shooting

marbles, playing pen knife,

jumping rope, sleigh riding or

ice skating, depending on the

weather or season. The black

men and white men worked to-

gether at the mill, swapped

jokes, shared their chewing to-

bacco and called each other by

their first names.

The Greenbrier River was a

sight to see, both in winter and

summer. In winter the ice

would freeze from bank to bank.

It was then time for the chil-

It was then time for the chil-



bell rings, the mill bell whistle blows, telling the mothers to get the dinner on the table for those close enough to go home, boxes and eat and relax. Some children used the noon hour to go to the post office or to the store to do a little shopping for their moms or a neighbor. The men would hurry to the store to buy a bag of Five Brothers tobacco, a plug of Browns tobacco, a pair of gloves, or to sit on the store steps, leaning up against the heating units in the store (depending on the weather) to just talk and relax. Back to school and work for the afternoon. Four o'clock brings the sound of the school bell and mill whistle again. Children and fathers hurry home for a hot meal and to do the chores necessary to start in the routine of the next day. Mondays one could see line after line of clean clothes hanging out to dry. Tuesday was ironing day. Mothers were busy too; they had house cleaning, cooking, mending and all the little things a mother has to do to keep a family happy. The yards were kept mowed, sidewalks swept clean in summer months. In winter months the snow was shoveled off of the porches and sidewalks. The maintenance crew could be seen painting houses or mending fences and sidewalks. Some of us, whether we lived in town houses or privately owned homes, almost knew how many boards were in each sidewalk, how many trees, and what kind were in each yard, who had dogs and who had cats. We could hear the passenger train coming up the track, knowing that it would stop at the old Cass Depot, bringing some new people and some we already knew. Time for a mad rush for the post office to get the County paper which always came on Thursday, or to see who got the biggest package from Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward, some to get a new mail order catalog. The train went on up to Durbin and back down again in the afternoon with more mail and passengers. Soon a freight train could be heard coming in to bring supplies and to take out lumber. In your small mind you wonder how the freight and passenger train could be on the track and not run into each other. Somewhere in and around all this the sound of the log train could be heard bringing in logs off of the mountain to be sawed and planned at the mill. Friday and Saturday the men who cut down the trees in the mountain were in need of a

ring at one of the three churches, telling people there was a revival going on, choir practice, practicing for a Christmas or Easter program or a prayer meeting. On Sunday mornings the bells from all three churches would ring for Sunday School and preaching services. People could be seen going up the street or down the street, going to the church of their choice. The town doctor would start out early to make house calls, to ease a small child's pains, an elderly person's aches, or on a rush call to his office to find it full of patients, some were real sick and some only needed an aspirin and a pep talk. Some needed a broken bone mended, some needed a tooth pulled. Our doctor was a medical doctor, dentist and a counselor, all in one big jolly man. He was mother, father, and doctor to us young people. It was a sad day in Cass when he died. We must not forget our Town Cop. He could be seen or found somewhere in Cass 24 hours a day. He made his regular rounds, sometimes taking a fellow home who had too much to drink and locking up some who refused to stay home after he had taken them home, checking up on the young people, making sure they had a good time, yet keeping out of trouble. On real dark nights or cold nights he would walk home with some of the children or young people if they lived out of town limits and had no street lights. He kept a close watch on the one restaurant we had, where young people could go to dance, drink cokes, or just enjoy the company of other young people, and of course he had to keep an eye on the beer joints to keep the men and some women from drinking more than they could handle, and separate the fighters. He was a busy man. If you walked through the streets or back alleys when school wasn't open, you could see children, black and white, playing together, shooting marbles, playing pen knife, jumping rope, sleigh riding or ice skating, depending on the weather or season. The black men and white men worked together at the mill, swapped jokes, shared their chewing tobacco and called each other by their first names. The Greenbrier River was a sight to see, both in winter and summer. In winter the ice would freeze from bank to bank. It was then time for the children to go to school.

3  
dren to ice skate or take their sleds on the ice. Sometimes we would get ice from the river and make a freezer of ice cream if we could afford the cream, sugar and eggs. When spring came it brought warm rains and the ice began to melt. When the ice started out it took everything in its way, with it sometimes outdoor toilets, hog pens, chicken houses, and maybe a rooster sitting on top of the chicken house, growing as if it were early morning. The swinging bridge would usually be pulled loose from its anchors on the bank and would have to be rebuilt. People along the river banks had to move out to higher ground so they would not be caught in the high water. It would not be long, soon the river would be back to normal. Toilets, chicken houses, etc. were rebuilt again. Soon afterward one could see smoke rising here and there from small fires, where people were cleaning their yards and gardens, getting ready to plant garden or just watch the grass and flowers come through the earth. Boys would begin to talk "fishing" and girls began to talk "swimming." Oh yes, we fished, swam and took Saturday night baths, and just waded in the Greenbrier and Deer Creek waters. But I'm glad some of the people stayed around and helped in the rebirth of Cass as a tourist attraction, a place where people can come and see the beauty of the mountain which only God could create. They can look around and see where the logs came from and where they were sawed into lumber. The tourist can look around Cass and look back through the years and say "There were once some hard working people here with lots of love and laughter, heartaches and pain—all the ingredients to make a small town prosper. Maybe when they get home they can look at their house and say "You know, maybe some of the boards in this house came from that old mill in Cass, West Virginia. Mrs. Oliver Sprouse Dunmore

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